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Message Text

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62
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 NEA-10 IO-13

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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---------- 102925
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6717
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 5299

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, SHUM, SREF, AR
SUBJECT: FOREIGN EMBASSIES REACTION TO MISSING NATIONALS,
REFUGEES, ASYLEES

REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 5109, (B) BUENOS AIRES 5218

1. SUMMARY. CASES OF MISSING OR ARBITRARILY DETAINED FOREIGN NATIONALS CONTINUE TO CONCERN EMBASSIES IN ARGENTINA AND FUEL ARGENTINA'S BAD PRESS ABROAD. USG'S PROTEST OF DENIAL OF CONSULAR ACCESS TO DETAINED AMERICAN PRIEST REMAINS UNANSWERED. WEST GERMAN GOVT RECEIVED A NEGATIVE REPLY FROM PRESIDENT VIDELA TO ITS INQUIRIES ON WHEREABOUTS OF TWO MISSING GERMANS. ITALIANS HAVE SOME 40 CITIZNES IN UNDEFINED STATUS. IN ADDITION TO PROBLEMS WITH THEIR OWN NATIONALS, SEVERAL EMBSSIES FEEL THEMSELVES INCREASINGLY PRESSURED BY REFUGEE PROBLEM, ESPECIALLY AFTER REFUGEE INVASION OF CANADIAN EMBASSY. END SUMMARY.

2. CASES OF FOREIGN CITIZENS MISSING OR DETAINED WITHOUT CHARGE UNDER STATE OF SIEGE CONTINUE TO PERTURB SEVERAL EMBASSIES IN ARGENTINA AND REVERBERATE IN THE FOREIGN PRESS.
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NOT COUNTING THE MANY HUNDREDS OF SOUTH AMERICAN EXILES

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DETAINED IN ARGENTINA, THERE ARE AT PRESENT SOME 40 ITALIANS, 5 WEST GERMANS, 8 FRENCH AND 2 AMERICANS EITHER MISSING OR DETAINED FOR OSTESIBLY POLITICAL REASONS. A NUMBER OF THEMARE DUAL NATIONALS.

3. ALTHOUGH INTENSE PRESSURE BY THE ISRAELI GOVT SECURED THE RELEASE OF FIVE ISRAELI AND THREE ARGENTINE JEWS AUGUST 4 AFTER TWO WEEKS IN JAIL (REFTEL A), EFFORTS BY OTHER GOVTS HAVE MET WITH CONSIDERABLY LESS SUCCESS. (THE FREED JEWISH YOUTHS ARE STILL WORKING IN ARGENTINA AND THE ISRAELI GOVT APPARENTLY CONSIDERS THE INCIDENT A "MISUNDERSTANDING.") USG'S STRONG PROTEST OVER DENIAL OF CONSULAR ACCESS TO AMERICAN PRIEST JAMES WEEKS HAS NOT YET BEEN ANSWERED (REF B). PRESIDENT VIDELA DELIVERED A NEGATIVE REPLY MONDAY (AUGUST 9) TO WEST GERMAN CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT'S JULY 7 LETTER ON BEHALF OF TWO GERMANS--ONE A DUAL NATIONAL--MISSING SINCE EARLY APRIL. IN HIS FOUR-PAGE REPLY, VIDELA EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN AND COOPERATION BUT DENIED THAT THE TWO ARE IN HANDS OF ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HAD SAID THAT THE CASE, WHICH HAS AROUSED INTENSE INTEREST AND A HUNGER STRIKE IN GERMANY, COULD SERIOUSLY DAMAGE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. A GERMAN EMBASSY SOURCE SAID FRG IS CONSIDERING ITS NEXT STEP.

4. OTHER EMBASSIES HAVE BEEN SIMILARLY FRUSTRATED. VARIOUS CONSULAR OFFICERS HAVE CHARGED THAT ARGENTINA DISREGARDS THE VIENNA CONVENTION PROVISIONS CONCERNING CONSULAR ACCESS. THE FRENCH CONSUL TOLD EMBOFF THAT EACH TIME HE HAS FORMALLY REQUESTED ACCESS TO ONE FRENCH PRISONER BEING HELD UNDER STATE OF SIEGE, THE PRISONER HAS BEEN REMOVED TO ANOTHER JAIL. ITALIANS, SPANISH AND OTHERS--AS WELL AS US--HAVE BEEN DENIED CONSULAR ACCESS.

5. WHEN POSSIBLE, EMBASSIES TRY TO HAVE THE FOREIGN DETAINEE EXPELLED. TO DATE, 46 FOREIGNERS HAVE BEEN EXPELLED FROM ARGENTINA UNDER A MARCH 24 DECREE THAT AUTHORIZED THE EXECUTIVE TO EXPEL FOREIGNERS WHO ENGAGE IN "SUBVERSIVE OR DISRUPTIVE ACTIVITIES." MOST HAVE BEEN CHILEANS OR URUGUAYANS; OTHERS INCLUDE FIVE FRENCH, THREE ITALIANS AND ONE AMERICAN. ANOTHER AMERICAN--GWENDA MAE LOKEN--WAS ORDERED EXPELLED BUT CONFIDENTIAL

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LATER RETURNED TO JAIL IN CORDOBA FOR FURTHER QUESTIONING. GOA HAS FREQUENTLY SAID NONE OF THE EXPELLEES HAS BEEN OR WILL BE RETURNED TO HIS OWN COUNTRY AGAINST HIS WILL.

6. A NUMBER OF WESTERN EMBASSIES HAVE INCREASED EFFORTS TO RESETTLE REFUGEES. UNHCR RECENTLY REPORTED THAT CANADA HAS AGREED TO TAKE AN ADDITIONAL 1,000, AUSTRIA 250, NORWAY 130 AND BRITAIN 75. IN MOST CASES, HOWEVER, THE QUOTAS REFER

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TO ALL OF LATIN AMERICA AND MANY WILL COME FROM CHILE AND ELSEWHERE. SEVERAL FOREIGN DIPLOMATS HAVE PRIVATEDLY WORRIED TO EMBOFFS THAT THEIR PROGRAMS EXTEND PRIMARILY TO CHILEAN REFUGEES, WHILE THEY ARE CONVINCED URUGUAYAN REFUGEES FACE CONSIDERABLY GREATER PHYSICAL DANGER IN ARGENTINA. DENMARK, FRANCE, SWITZERLAND, AND WEST GERMANY WILL CONTINUE TO CONSIDER TAKING REFUGEES ONLY IN EXCEPTIONAL CASES.

7. SOME EMBASSIES ARE ALSO TIGHTENING SECURITY--INTENSIFYING VISITOR CHECKS AND RESTRICTING PUBLIC ACCESS--TO PREVENT TAKEOVERS BY REFUGEES SEEKING ASYLUM, AS HAPPENED RECENTLY IN THE CANADIAN EMBASSY ON JUNE 3, WHEN 27 CHILEAN REFUGEES REFUSED TO LEAVE THE BUILDING, CLAIMING THEIR LIVES WERE IN DANGER. ALL BUT THREE HAVE SINCE GONE TO CANADA UNDER THAT COUNTRY'S IMMIGRATION PROGRAM. ANOTHER FIVE CHILEAN REFUGEES ARE STAYING AT THE ITALIAN EMBASSY. APPARENTLY THE ITALIAN GOVT HAS NOT GRANTED THEM ENTRY AND THE EMBASSY IS SEEKING AN ALTERNATE RECIPIENT COUNTRY. SEVERAL CHILEANS INVADED THE SWEDISH EMBASSY LAST MONTH BUT WERE PERSUADED TO LEAVE.
CHAPLIN

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